

yy AG

FRIENDS OF RWANDA (OPERATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP)

RELEASED IN FULL

BACKGROUND: THE CONTINUED ROLE OF UNAMIR

I. OBJECTIVES

Discuss timing of the upcoming UNAMIR mandate renewal; elicit participants' views on possible elements for the renewal resolution.

II. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) is now at full strength, with 5,599 troops and HQ staff, 344 military observers and 80 CIVPOL. Twenty-six countries are represented; the U.S. does not participate. The troops and military observers are deployed throughout the country. Their encounters with the RPA were for a time increasingly confrontational, but a serious incident between members of the Australian contingent and the RPA caused some reflection on the need for UNAMIR troops to exercise extraordinary discretion. The relationship is somewhat less tense now. Several of the national contingents made specific complaints about lack of support, but the UN has solved or is solving many of the most pressing problems. The U.S. has been pushing for full deployment of UNAMIR troops, and has supported the operation directly by providing airlift and equipment. The British contingent will depart on/about December 1, with the Australians and Canadians following shortly. UNAMIR will remain at full strength, however, as other national contingents take their place.

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

UNAMIR's mandate expires December 9. However, the U.S. will push the Security Council to review the Secretary General's forthcoming report to the Council and address this issue earlier. We expect to table and call to vote a resolution on renewal no later than November 30, which is the last day the U.S. Permrep is Council President. Our draft resolution will propose either expanding UNAMIR to conduct operations under the "bubble" concept (see separate background paper) for refugee camp security, or establishment of a separate peacekeeping operation for the same purpose. On December 1, Rwanda itself begins its month as SC President, postponed from last September. While we do not intend to make an issue of it, it seems highly inappropriate for the Permrep of a country so greatly affected by a resolution to lead the discussion and voting on it. The need for expeditious action to address camp security problems is another reason to act on the extension and revision of the mandate early.

The Council will most likely renew the mandate for six months. As well, the SC may have to raise UNAMIR's troop ceiling from its present level of 5,500. At minimum, the ceiling must be raised to 6,500 to accommodate lengthy periods when the numbers increase for logistical reasons. We may also have to accommodate the expansion of UNAMIR by roughly 2,500 troops, if the Council chooses the "bubble" concept and if an expansion of UNAMIR is the method by which these new

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

peacekeepers will be deployed. The resolution will engender some controversy moving through the USG and in the Council, as we and the international community will be forced to address in concrete ways the critical issue of camp security.

We should also ensure that UNAMIR is fully and effectively deployed throughout Rwanda, as this is critical to the success of whatever security operation is chosen for the refugee camps. In this regard, the operation's logistical support for other key operations, such as the human rights monitors, is critical.

Attachment: Talking Points

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

TALKING POINTS

yy19H

RELEASED IN FULL

- o UNAMIR's mandate expires December 9; the U.S. believes that the Security Council should not wait until that date to review, revise and extend the mandate.
- The level of tension in the refugee and displaced-person camps is rising.
- We need to consider very seriously the proposals the Secretary General of the United Nations will shortly present to the Security Council.
- The U.S. favors the idea of two battalions of peacekeepers (not necessarily attached to UNAMIR) providing complete security temporarily at various camp locations, allowing refugees/displaced persons to leave without intimidation by the ex-FAR or Hutu militia elements now in control.
- We hope to present a resolution on these issues in the Security Council next week.
- We would be interested in the views of this gathering.
- o We believe that full and effective deployment of UNAMIR inside Rwanda is critical to the success of whatever security operation is undertaken in the refugee camps.
- In this regard, we should also ensure that UNAMIR is fully deployed within Rwanda, and is providing adequate logistical support to such key programs as the human rights monitors.
- o Our perception is that the level of tension between UNAMIR troops and the RPA has abated somewhat, much to the credit of UNAMIR's leadership.

UNCLASSIFIED